

it repealed. How can hon. gentlemen go back on this statute ; the leader of the Opposition is going back on twelve years of his own life in this House. (Hear, hear.) This Act was passed in 1884, passed after a Committee of the whole House had been wrangling and jangling over the bribery plot for weeks. The original Act which was passed in 1867 and amended in 1884 to cover the case of the brawling brood of bribers. Then the Liberals were the accusers and the Conservatives the accused. Then the Liberal Government was in power, a Liberal Premier was in power, and he says: "We will implement this old statute and enlarge it." It is not at all likely that the Liberal Premier, in drawing an Act of that kind, would shorten his own arm to reach out for the other fellow (Applause.) Hon. gentlemen cannot get away from the statutes of this land. (Applause.) We do not purpose that they shall. They charge that the Provincial Secretary attempted to corrupt the member for Manitoulin. Here we have nineteen-year-old legislation, passed by ourselves for the purpose of dealing with a case of this kind, and what reason do hon. gentlemen opposite offer for running away from it? The hand which drew this Act was the hand of Sir Oliver Mowat. (Applause.)

It will have a steadying effect all over this Province when the people clearly understand that this Act, under which we are proceeding, expressly passed to provide proper means for dealing with a case of this kind, was written with the pen of him who stood easily first among constitutional lawyers and masters of proper parliamentary procedure in this land. Liberals admired and Conservatives respected the high integrity and undoubted ability of Sir Oliver Mowat. (Applause.) Many a time and oft did he or his representatives cross the ocean to fight out the constitutional battles of the Province at the foot of the Throne, and as oft as they crossed, so oft did they return wearing the laurel wreath of the victor. (Loud applause.) As oft as he closed in keen legal conflict with the big Premier, so oft did the latter bite the dust. (Applause.) I repeat, sir, that Liberals therefore admired the undoubted ability of the man, and Conservatives, as a result of the cumulative effect of successive defeats in the courts, learned to respect Sir Oliver Mowat's ability. Be it known, therefore, that nineteen years Sir Oliver Mowat drew this Act with his own hand, and be it further known that Hon. William Meredith, the leader of the Opposition revised it, and pronounced it perfect ; further, sir, that it was unanimously adopted by this whole House ; and further still, that in 1887 and again in 1897, when the statutes were consolidated, it was affirmed and re-affirmed by this whole House. This is the very Act, sir, under which the hon. leader of this House asks us to proceed, and we challenge hon. gentlemen opposite to advance a single substantial reason why we should disown our own law, and stultify ourselves by running away from it. (Loud applause.)